

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 1223

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), IS
SUBJECT: ISRAELI MORNING PRESS ON SECRETARY'S VISIT AUGUST 10, 1977

1. AS EXPECTED, CONTROVERSY OVER PLOS PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS IS TODAY'S MAIN ISSUE. PRESS DEALS WITH SECRETARY'S FIRST DAY OF TALKS IN ISRAEL TOGETHER WITH WHAT IT DESCRIBES AS "NEW US STANCE" ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE. PRESS GIVES FULL COVERAGE TO FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE REITERATED ISRAELI POSITION THAT "PLO WILL NOT BE A PARTNER TO NEGOTIATIONS EVEN IF IT RECOGNIZES 242".

2. HA'ARETZ (GOLAN) WRITES THAT "CONTRARY TO WHAT WAS EXPECTED ONLY TWO DAYS AGO, DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING IN NEW YORK HAS TAKEN ONLY PART OF THE TIME OF THE AMERICANS AND ISRAELIS WHO PARTICIPATED IN YESTERDAY'S TALKS. YESTERDAY'S DISCUSSIONS WERE OVERSHADOWED BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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THE U.S. WOULD RECOGNIZE THE PLO IF AND WHEN IT ACCEPTS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242. CARTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT WAS RECEIVED WITH ASTONISHMENT AND DISPLEASURE IN JERUSALEM. AS EXPECTED, PRIME MINISTER BEGIN TOLD THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE THAT ISRAEL WOULD SEE AMERICAN RECOGNITION OF PLO AS A GRAVE ACT. BOTH THE PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN

LEFT NO DOUBTS AS TO ISRAEL'S POSITION ON THIS ISSUE. IT WAS MADE CLEAR TO THE AMERICAN SECRETARY THAT ADOPTING CARTER'S POSITION COULD BRING ABOUT A SHARP CONFRONTATION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE U.S. AND PUT AN OBSTACLE ON THE ROAD TO PEACE IN THE REGION. IT WAS ALSO MADE CLEAR TO MR. VANCE THAT THE AMERICANS ARE PLAYING INTO THE HANDS OF THE EXTREME ELEMENTS IN THE ARAB WORLD INSTEAD OF COOPERATING WITH THE MODERATE ELEMENTS". GOLAN ADDS THAT "IT NOW SEEMS THAT TODAY'S TALKS WOULD BE DEVOTED TO ATTEMPTS IN FINDING FORMULA ENABLING THE HOLDING OF THE MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS IN NEW YORK. IT IS THEREFORE CONCEIVABLE THAT SECRETARY VANCE WILL ATTEMPT TODAY TO SOFTEN THE IMPRESSION OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT REGARDING PLO'S PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA."

3. HA'ARETZ EDITORIAL ANALYZES THE NEW SITUATION CREATED FOLLOWING THE RECENT CARTER ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN THESE TALKS. IT CONCLUDES THAT "WE CAN HOPE THAT OUR OPPOSITION TO A THIRD STATE WILL NOT BE REJECTED BY AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION... ON THIS SCORE THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE CHANCE OF DETERRING THE AMERICAN LEADERSHIP FROM FURTHER HASTY MOVES. THE PROBLEM OF THE PALESTINIANS--I.3., JUDEA AND SAMARIA CAN BE SOLVED BY AN ISRAELI-JORDANIAN CORPORATION. BUT THIS CLAIM COMMITS THE GOVERNMENT TO DEMONSTRATE A MORE UNCLASSIFIED

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FLEXIBLE POSITION TOWARDS JORDAN..."

4. DAVAR (BLOCH) WRITES THAT FOLLOWING THE FIRST DAY OF SECRETARY VANCE TALKS" IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE U.S. IS NOT EXERTING PRESSURE, FOR THE TIME BEING, ON ISRAEL OVER THE ISSUE OF PLO'S PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA AND THAT NO AMERICAN PROPOSAL TO CHANGE 242 HAS BEEN RAISED. THE AMERICAN SECRETARY BRINGS WITH HIM AN AGREEMENT FROM ALL COUNTRIES OF THE REGION TO CONTINUE CONTACTS IN NEW YORK WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SEPARATE TALKS TO BE HELD BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF ISRAEL AND THE ARAB STATES...IT IS HOWEVER CLEAR THAT THE CHANCES FOR CONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ARE REMOTE AND THAT THE U.S. SUPPORTS THE ARAB POSITION THAT A NUMBER OF SUBSTANTIVE PRINCIPLES OUGHT TO BE AGREED UPON BEFORE THE CONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE." BLOCH QUOTES ONE OF THE ISRAELIS WHO PARTICIPATED IN YESTERDAY'S TALK AS SAYING THAT "THERE IS AN ENORMOUS GAP BETWEEN THE POSITIONS OF ISRAEL AND THE ARAB STATES AND A CONSIDERABLE GAP BETWEEN THE ISRAELI AND AMERICAN POSITION, BUT THE DOOR ON THE CONTINUATION OF TALKS HAS NOT BEEN CLOSED AND THE

TIME FOR A CONFRONTATION HAS NOT ARRIVED YET".

5. DAVAR EDITORIAL CALLS FOR "A SEARCHING DISCUSSION WITH THE U.S." ON THE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES--A DISCUSSION WHICH WAS AVOIDED DURING THE PRIME MINISTER'S RECENT VISIT TO THE U.S. THE EDITORIAL STRESSES THAT THE PRESENT ISRAELI GOVERNMENT LIKE ITS PREDECESSOR ENJOYS THE SUPPORT OF THE MAJORITY OF THE PUBLIC IN REJECTING RETROACTIVE CHANGES OF UN RESOLUTIONS. THIS IS NOT JUST A POLITICAL ISRAELI POSITION BUT ALSO A POSITION OF LEGAL LOGIC.

6. AL-HAMISHAR (SHEHORI) WRITES THAT "FOLLOWING SHARP REACTIONS IN ISRAELI PRESS" THE IMPRESSION WAS CREATED
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YESTERDAY IN JERUSALEM THAT THE U.S. WANTS TO ALLAY ISRAEL'S ANXIETY AND DISPLEASURE CAUSED BY CARTER'S REMARKS ON PLO. "THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE DENIED YESTERDAY'S WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT THAT IF THE PLO RECOGNIZES 242 THE U.S. WOULD SUPPORT ITS PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA WITHOUT DEMANDING A CHANGE IN THE PALESTINIAN CHARTER. VANCE SAID THAT THE STATEMENT WAS INACCURATELY QUOTED. HE ADDED THAT THE U.S. ADHERES TO ITS POSITION AND WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE THE PLO BEFORE IT RECOGNIZES 242 AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL."

7. AL-HAMISHAR EDITORIAL REGARDS CARTER'S STATEMENT AS A VERY "GRAVE AMERICAN PLAN". THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT THE POLITICAL "CEASE FIRE" BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE U.S. IS OVER AND THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAS NOT BEEN AVERTED.
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